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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 19 July 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, and further to my letter dated 15 July 1996 (see A/50/999-S/1996/554), I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, which were recorded today, 19 July 1996, as follows:

1. A formation of two Turkish Air Force aircraft along with one air-refuelling tanker entered at 0740 hours without permission the Nicosia flight information region. The aircraft exited the Nicosia flight information region at 1000 hours.

2. On the same day, another formation of four Turkish Air Force aircraft violated Cyprus airspace, entering at 0832 hours the flight information region of Nicosia and exited at 0858 hours.

3. In addition, four aircraft entered the Nicosia flight information region at 0902 hours and exited at 0926 hours.

4. Finally, a formation of three aircraft entered the Nicosia flight information region at 0940 hours and exited at 1006 hours.

The latest violations of the Nicosia flight information region and of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkish military aircraft took place on the eve of the twenty-second anniversary of the Turkish invasion in Cyprus and the occupation of 37 per cent of the island's territory.

Such developments only heighten tension in Cyprus as it is also clearly stated in the latest Security Council resolution on Cyprus, 1062 (1996) of 28 June 1996.

At the same time, such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region are in violation of international air traffic rules and seriously endanger civil aviation flights over Cyprus.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest against these violations of the Nicosia flight information region and of the Republic's airspace by Turkish Air Force aircraft. The new violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus are in complete disregard of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 55, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kornelios S. KORNELIOU
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of the
Republic of Cyprus to the
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